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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

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TRANSONIC FLUTTER DERIVATIVES FOR A MIDSPAN

CONTROL SURFACE ON AN UNSWEPT WING

By John A. Wyss, Robert E. Dannenberg, Robert M. Sorenson, and Bruno J. Gambucci

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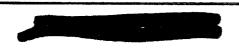
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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM X-160

EFFECTS OF BOUNDARY-LAYER SUCTION AND SPOTLERS ON

TRANSONIC FLUTTER DERIVATIVES FOR A MIDSPAN

CONTROL SURFACE ON AN UNSWEPT WING*

By John A. Wyss, Robert E. Dannenberg, Robert M. Sorenson, and Bruno J. Gambucci

SUMMARY

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The effects of suction and spoilers on transonic sectional controlsurface flutter derivatives were determined in the Ames 14-foot transonic wind tunnel for a midspan flap-type control surface on a straight wing having an aspect ratio of 3, a taper ratio of 0.6, and a wing-thickness ratio of 0.06. Flap chord extended from the 70-percent chord station to the trailing edge. Suction was applied on spanwise perforated strips on each side of the control surface for successive locations of 77.3-, 86.6-, and 95.7-percent wing chord. The spoilers were 0.3 inch high, corresponding to a height to midspan wing chord ratio of 0.006 and were located on the control at the 82-percent wing chord station.

The application of suction during control-surface oscillation reduced the damping at subsonic speeds and lowered the Mach number for instability. In contrast, the spoilers had a stabilizing effect at subsonic speeds. Author

INTRODUCTION

Recent studies of the single-degree-of-freedom (rotational) flutter of flap-type control surfaces have indicated that unless the designer resorts to the addition of nonaerodynamic damping, this type of flutter cannot be prevented in limited transonic speed ranges except by a change in the configuration. Examples of such a configuration change, given in references 1 through 4, include a solid wedge type control surface with a blunt trailing edge, addition of triangular wedges (tetrahedra), use of spoilers on the control surface, or simply reduction of control-surface aspect ratio. Each of these modifications was found to reduce or eliminate flutter over certain speed ranges; however, such changes in



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configuration except for the latter would be expected to produce undesirable drag penalties (e.g., ref. 5).

A means of influencing the flow field without changing the profile, and thus possibly avoiding a drag penalty, is the use of suction on or near the control surface. It was reasoned that suction would influence the shock wave and the boundary layer and hence would affect aerodynamic damping of the surface. An exploratory program was conducted to determine the effects on transonic flutter derivatives of suction applied on single spanwise strips on both sides of a conventional flap-type control surface. The strips were tested for three successive chordwise stations. In addition, the effect of spoilers mounted on the control surface was investigated. The results for such a spoiler configuration on a swept wing are contained in reference 4.

The control surface tested was a midspan 30-percent plain flap which formed part of a 6-percent-thick unswept wing with an aspect ratio of 3. The sectional flutter derivatives were determined by means of pressure cells at forced frequencies of the control surface from 10 to 30 cycles per second for a constant amplitude of $\pm 1.08^{\circ}$. Mach number varied from 0.6 to 1.12, with corresponding Reynolds number ranging from 10.4 to $14.8 \times 10^{\circ}$. Angle of attack and mean angle of flap deflection were 0° .

NOTATION

b local wing semichord, ft

c_b balance chord (distance from hinge line to leading edge of control), ft

 $\mathbf{c}_{\mathbf{f}}$ control chord (distance from hinge line to trailing edge), ft

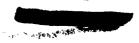
 c_h control hinge-moment coefficient, $\frac{HM}{\frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 c_t^2}$

 $c_{h\delta} = \frac{\partial c_h}{\partial \delta}$, per radian

 $c_{h_{\dot{\delta}}}$ aerodynamic damping-moment coefficient, $\frac{\partial c_{h}}{\partial (\dot{\delta}b)}$

 c_p pressure coefficient, $\frac{p_l - p}{q}$

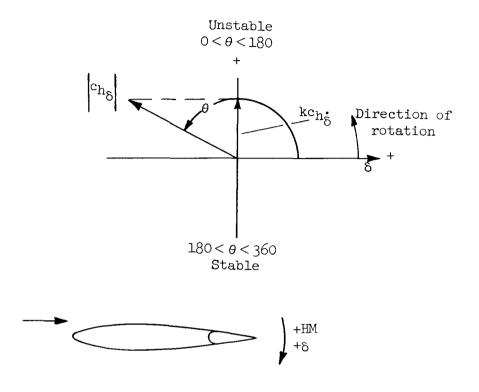
 c_q suction quantity coefficient, $\frac{Q}{VS_S}$



- ct total-control chord, cb + cf, ft
- f frequency, cps
- HM hinge moment, foot-pounds per foot of span
- k reduced frequency, $\frac{\omega b}{V}$, with b taken at 3/8 semispan
- M free-stream Mach number
- p₁ local static pressure, lb/ft²
- p free-stream static pressure, lb/ft²
- q free-stream dynamic pressure, lb/ft²
- Q quantity flow rate of suction air, ft³/sec
- S_S suction reference area, portion of wing area included within flap span, ft² (see fig. 4)
- V velocity of air stream, ft/sec
- x longitudinal distance in chord lengths
- angle of attack, deg
- δ control-surface deflection angle, radians except where noted
- δ_{m} $\,\,$ mean angle of control-surface deflection, deg
- δ control-surface angular velocity, $\frac{d\delta}{dt}$, radians/sec
- θ phase angle of resultant aerodynamic moment with respect to control-surface displacement, deg
- ρ density of air stream, slugs/ft³
- ω angular frequency, $2\pi f$, radians/sec



Vector Notation



APPARATUS

The present investigation was conducted in the Ames 14-foot transonic wind tunnel. Descriptions of this tunnel and the apparatus used therein, the control-surface drive system, instrumentation, and corrections and precision applicable to the measurement technique are contained in reference 2. A sectional sketch of the nozzle and test section is shown in figure 1. Figure 2 shows a view of the model mounted in the test section. A schematic drawing of the control-surface drive system is shown in figure 3.

Model

The model (fig. 2) was mounted on base plates bolted to the tunnel floor. Model plan-form dimensions are shown in figure 4. The basic model is a wing with an aspect ratio of 3, a 6-foot semispan, a taper ratio of 0.6, an unswept 70-percent chord line, and a 30-percent-chord trailing-edge-type flap occupying the middle half of the semispan. The



wing had an NACA 65A006 profile which was modified to a blunt trailing edge of 0.2-inch thickness. This modification facilitated pressure-cell installation at the trailing edge. Chordwise rows of pressure cells and pressure orifices were installed at 3/8 and 5/8 stations of the semispan. The control surface had a balance-chord to flap-chord ratio of 0.25 based on the mean aerodynamic chord of the flap. The hinge line was perpendicular to the wind stream.

Previous experience indicated the necessity for additional stiffness and damping of the wing. This was provided by a 5/32-inch aircraft cable which was passed through the plastic wing tip, sweptback about 20° , and attached to a cantilever spring system outside the tunnel walls (see fig. 2). It was found that the control surface could be oscillated safely, with negligible coupling between the control surface and wing.

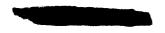
Control Surface and Suction System

A typical cross-section drawing of the model is shown in figure 5. The spar of the wing was constructed of steel plates in order to provide ducting between the vacuum pumps and the control surface.

The porous skin of the control surface, shown in figure 6, consisted of a perforated aluminum sheet fastened to ribs which were spaced approximately 6 inches apart. The perforated sheet (0.125 inch thick) had 47 holes (0.094 inch diameter) per square inch in a staggered pattern, which made its area 33 percent open. The spanwise porous strips were obtained by covering the remaining portions of the perforated sheet with a nonporous tape approximately 0.003 inch thick.

The chordwise extent of the porous region on the control surface was selected on the basis of obtaining a suction pressure in the duct sufficiently lower than the surface pressures to insure an inflow velocity variation of no more than ± 10 percent along the span of the flap. The width selected was $0.5\frac{1}{4}$ inch. The average inflow velocity (both surfaces) was about 100 feet per second at M = 1.0. Three chordwise positions of the center line of the porous region were selected: 77.3-, 86.6-, and 95.7-percent wing chord. The porous strip at 77.3-percent chord is illustrated in figure 7(a). For a basis of comparison the completely taped flap was also tested.

An airtight flexible coupling, detailed in figure 5, joined the control surface duct to the wing duct over the entire flap span. Since the test method involved only pressure measurements obtained during forced oscillation of known frequency and amplitude, restraining forces exerted by the coupling had no effect on the results.





Air was drawn through the porous region into the hollow spar in the model and then through a ducting system by the vacuum pumps located outside the test chamber. The exhaust from the pumps was discharged into the plenum chamber surrounding the test section in order to reduce the pressure ratio across the pumps. The quantity of air flowing through the duct system was measured by means of a standard A.S.M.E. orifice.

The control surface was also equipped with spoilers on both sides located at 82-percent wing chord (fig. 7(b)). The spoiler was 0.3 inch in height corresponding to a height to chord ratio of 0.006 at midspan. For this arrangement, the perforated sections of the flap were completely taped.

SCOPE OF TESTS

Sectional flutter derivatives for the control surface were obtained for the various configurations for a wing angle of attack of 0° and for a mean angle of control-surface deflection of 0° for a range of Mach numbers from 0.6 to 1.12. The corresponding Reynolds numbers based on mean aerodynamic wing chord varied from 10.4 to 14.8 million. The control surface was oscillated at an amplitude of $\pm 1.08^{\circ}$ at frequencies from 10 to 30 cycles per second. With Mach number and wing angle of attack constant, data were taken for time intervals of about 30 seconds at each frequency. The over-all accuracy of the pressure-cell data is estimated to be 5 percent in magnitude and $\pm 3^{\circ}$ in phase angle. (See ref. 2.)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The sectional flutter derivatives are presented in table I(a) for the completely taped control surface, tables I(b) through I(d) for the suction-strip configurations, and in table I(e) for the spoiler data. Static pressure distributions are tabulated in table II.

All data presented were derived from the lower row of pressure cells located at the 3/8-semispan wing station. Supplemental results of the investigation are in the form of high-speed motion-picture shadowgraphs.

One important feature of transonic control-surface flutter is that the flow field characteristics are not appreciably different as frequency is increased from low to moderate frequencies, say from 1 to 60 cycles per second. For example, study of shadowgraph motion pictures from investigations reported in references 2, 3, and 6 indicate shock-wave patterns which show only minor variations as frequency is increased. One might assume that the magnitude of the derivative is dependent on how far the shock wave moves, while phase angle is dependent on the pressure field





and boundary-layer conditions which not only have an effect on phase lag but are undoubtedly important in determining shock-wave excursion. (It should be pointed out that interference effects such as would result from an adjacent surface are excluded from these remarks.) Boundary-layer control offers the possibility of changing flow field characteristics without changing the external contour of a particular configuration, with possible beneficial effects on the flutter problem.

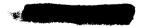
The effects of suction and spoiler addition on the static-pressure distribution of the control-surface model are shown in figure 8. The application of suction accentuates the negative pressure peak at about 50-percent chord while the spoiler increases the pressure ahead of the spoilers. Large discontinuities in pressure coefficient are produced by each configuration in the region of the control surface.

The effects of suction and spoilers on the flutter derivatives are described in relation to figure 9. It may be noted that the application of suction, $c_q = 0.0019$, had a relatively small effect on the magnitude and phase angle of hinge-moment derivative (fig. 9(a)) and on the aerodynamic damping component (fig. 9(b)). Suction appeared actually to reduce damping at subsonic speeds and lower the Mach number for instability. Curves are shown only for one strip location, 86.6 percent. Results for other locations of the suction strip were quite similar and differed only in secondary detail.

In contrast to the results obtained with suction, the spoiler had a pronounced stabilizing effect. Although the magnitude of the derivative $|c_{h\delta}|$ was almost constant with Mach number, phase angle, θ , had a pronounced shift toward the stable condition (fig. 9(a)). This resulted in the more stable subsonic damping components shown in figure 9(b). It may be noted, however, that the shift in phase angle was not sufficient to maintain stability at supersonic speeds. This result is different from those for a swept wing reported in reference 4, in that similar spoilers were effective in maintaining stability in the supersonic speed range. However, the present control configuration was different in that it had aerodynamic balance whereas the control in reference 4 had mass balance but no aerodynamic balance.

Examination of the shadowgraph picture disclosed that the application of suction was ineffective in altering the shock-wave position or motion during oscillation. However, small disturbance waves did occur along the suction strip. No evidence of pronounced separation could be detected from static pressures so that the removal of a large separated region did not constitute the primary function of suction. It thus seems likely that an extremely large increase in suction capacity would be required to alter the results appreciably.

The effect of the spoiler was striking in that motion of the shock wave along the surface during control-surface oscillation was almost





completely eliminated. This effect is quite similar to that for triangular shaped wedges reported in reference 3 in which shock-wave motion decreased coincident with the delay of instability to a higher Mach number.

Reynolds Number

A brief investigation of the effects of Reynolds number was conducted in the Ames Unitary Plan wind tunnel. Reducing Reynolds number by a factor of 3 resulted in only small changes in the trends and magnitudes of the data for the plain control surface. These results are similar to those in reference 4 in which the effects of Reynolds number for a sweptwing control-surface configuration were found to be small.

Ames Research Center
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Moffett Field, Calif., Oct. 7, 1959

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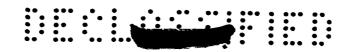


TABLE I.- MEASURED TRANSONIC CONTROL-SURFACE FLUTTER DERIVATIVES

(a) Flap surface taped						(c) Suction strip at 86.6-percent chord, cq = 0.002					
М	မ	k	ch8	θ, deg	kc _h ś	М	ω	k	ch8	θ, deg	kc _h
0.60	62.8	0.199	0.109	180	-0.066	0.85	62.8	0.144	0.264	180	-0.007
ļ	125.7	•398	.170	186	020		125.6	• 2 88	•294	188	044
70	157.1	•497	.100	201	040	00	157.0	•360	• 2 88	194	101
.70	62.8	•170	.135 .085	180 188	041 025	•90	62.8 125.6	•137	•277 •346	180 187	032 047
	125.7 157.1	•341 •426	.136	201	065	}	157.0	.273 .3 ⁴ 1	•341	186	057
.80	62.8	-151	.268	182	027	•92	62.8	.134	•351	180	.006
	125.7	•303	•235	194	063	,-	125.6	.267	.406	180	0
	157.1	•379	.250	195	092		157.0	•334	•3 86	180	0
•90	62.8	•136	.287	180	024	-94	62.8	.131	•666	162	115
	125.7	•272	•308	190	092		125.6	-263	•401	162	·142
	157.1	•3 ⁴ 0	.289	187	068	0.5	157.0	.328	•418	161	.109
.92	62.8	•134	.418	181 186	088	•95	62.8	.130	•563	163	.107
	125.7	•268	•373 •362	184	072 054		125.6 157.0	.261	•502 •491	161 163	•134
.94	157.1 62.8	•335 •128	.582	160	•156	•96	62.8	•326 •128	•590	160	.127 .180
•)	125.7	·257	.519	160	.144	• ,00	125.6	.256	.488	159	.164
'	157.1	•321	•473	159	•125		157.0	.320	.472	159	.157
.96	62.8	.129	-582	163	.161	.9 8	62.8	.126	-623	158	-178
	125.7	•259	•544	1 55	•173		125.6	.251	•536	155	.1 88
	157.1	•323	•485	15 7	•144		157.0	•31 ⁴	•503	156	.203
.98	62.8	.127	.679	159	•173	1.00	62.8	.124	•698	1 59	•190
	125.7	•254	•555	155	-201		125.6	.247	•597	157	•197
1.00	157.1 62.8	•317 •124	.541 .653	155 159	•190 •165		157.0	•309	-581	15 8	.177
1.00	125.7	.247	•560	155	.202	(d) Su	ction s	trip at	95.7-1	ercen	t chord,
	157.1	•309	.587	156	.185	` ′		e_ =	0.002		
1.05	62.8	•118	•730	161	.178			<u>4</u>			·
	125.7	•237	.660	160	•167	0.80	62.8	0.156	0.250	180	-0.027
	157.1	•2 96	.716	157	•222	ł	125.6	.312	•274	188	062
1.09	62.8	•114	.637	163	•121		157.1	•390	•531	1 88	071
1	125.7	•229	-622	161	•159	•90	62.8	.138	•339	180	0
	157.1	.2 86	.619	160	•145]	125.6 157.1	•275 •344	•328 •315	21 ⁴ 193	142 075
(b) Su	ction s	trin at	77.3-r	ercen	t chord,	•95	62.8	.130	•551	159	•093
(-,		c _q =	0.002	01001	, o	, ,,,	125.6	.260	486	152	.155
		<u> </u>					157.1	•326	•250	162	.076
0.80	62.8	0.153	0.335	177	-0.007	.98	62.8	.126	<i>•6</i> 86	15 8	200
	125.7	•306	.282	192	088		125.7	•253	485	146	.216
	157.1	•382	•303	196	107	0.0	157.1	•316	•485	142	•270
.85	62.8	• 1 45	.29 8	175	013	•99	62.8	.125	•585	154	.212
	125.7	.289	.2 88	190	080		125.7 157.1	.250 .313	•487 •476	150 147	204
	157.1	.362	-330	191	083	1.00	62.8	.124	•594	154	.209 .228
•90	62.8	•137	•351	178	018	1	125.7	.249	•505	149	.212
	125.7 157.1	•273 •342	•404 •417	185 181	058 041		157.1	311	.476	151	.213
.92	62.8	•342	.412	173	0	1.05	62.8	.119	-527	156	.170
1	125.7	.268	.456	175	.005		125.7	.23 8	•456	150	.1 86
1	157.1	•335	.454	169	.050		157.1	•297	-476	150	·164
•94	62.8	•131	.628	166	-114	1.085	125.7	.231	.461	151	• 1 43
1	125.7	•263	.520	157	•166	1 ~	157.1 62.8	.288	·452	158	.093
	157.1	•329	•557	158	•160	1.09	02.0	.115	•506	160	.1 67
.96	62.8	.129	.670	159	.183		[
1	125.7	•257	•537	155	• 1 86	1	1				
i	157.1	•321	•5 ⁴ 1	157	• 21 9		l				



TABLE I.- MEASURED TRANSONIC CONTROL-SURFACE FLUTTER DERIVATIVES - Concluded

(e) Spoiler at 82-percent chord								
М	ω	k	$ c_{h_{\delta}} $	θ , deg	^{kc} hś			
0.80	62.8	0.155	0.313	186	-0.074			
	125.7	.310	.324	199	065			
.85	157.1	•3 ⁸ 7	•341	180	153			
	62.8	•1 ⁴ 5	•289	188	084			
	125.7	•290	•266	208	097			
.90	157.1	•363	•377	215	151			
	62.8	•137	•302	197	060			
	125.7	•274	•256	226	114			
.92	157.1	•342	•303	180	158			
	62.8	•134	•253	196	091			
	125.7	•267	•274	227	131			
.94	157.1	•33 ¹ 4	•294	219	149			
	62.8	•131	•272	202	087			
	125.7	•262	•275	212	121			
.96	157.1	•327	•310	207	116			
	62.8	•128	•304	201	108			
	125.7	•256	•287	195	078			
.98	157.1	•320	•314	197	086			
	62.8	•125	•336	182	075			
	125.7	•251	•312	171	.011			
1.00	157.1	•31 ⁴	•317	175	.005			
	62.8	•123	•402	166	.066			
	125.7	•2 ⁴ 7	•303	159	.078			
1.05	157.1	•308	.306	161	.068			
	62.8	•118	.438	161	.096			
	125.7	•236	.322	162	.066			
1.10	157.1	.295	•327	163	.064			
	62.8	.113	•493	162	.100			
	125.7	.227	•381	163	.075			
	157.1	.283	•352	162	.072			

TABLE II.- MEASURED PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION FOR THE 5/8-SEMISPAN SECTION; δ = 0

(a) Flap surface taped										
Chord-	Mach number									
wise station,	0.90	0-92	0.94	0.96	0.98	1.00	1.05			
percent chord		Pressure coefficient, cp								
5 15 25 37.5 45 55 62.5 67.5 70.6 71.6 80.1 85.4 89.0 93.0	0.073 196 206 211 231 278 155 176 168 185 021 0 016 .184 .086 .122	0.075 191 204 250 226 300 227 204 178 292 .029 0 010 175 .088 .125	0.120 152 178 138 211 150 212 219 173 191 .060 .057 .033 143 .132 .172	0.105 169 196 243 346 196 234 304 322 150 .009 175 148		0.153 113 171 234 214 338 355 303 415 415 325 235 066 215 .077 .124	0.215 058 122 185 165 293 321 357 425 427 288 295 313 460 128 009			
	(b) Spo	iler lo	cated a	t 81.8-	percent	span				
5 15 25 37.5 45 55 62.5 67.5 70.6 71.9 74.6 80.1 85.4 89.2 93.0 95.9	0.073 191 201 211 216 221 .082 .082 052 064 .125 .237 480 382 062 .018	0.083 190 204 248 229 287 092 092 005 013 .131 -238 496 401 063 .013	0.095 182 205 260 248 285 181 124 030 041 .146 .248 505 410 051 .026	0.110 169 196 262 245 393 187 056 .070 .212 473 383 028 .044	0.133 147 190 272 246 234 351 298 162 166 067 .101 388 395 023 .050	0.154 113 176 235 216 342 356 325 217 219 165 .018 361 397 051	0.200 069 138 174 304 334 365 341 244 009 443 495 182 082			





TABLE II.- MEASURED PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION FOR THE 5/8-SEMISPAN SECTION; δ = 0 - Continued

(c) Suction strip at 77.3-percent span, cq = 0.002								
Chord-	Mach number							
wise station,	0.90	0.92	0.94	0.96	0.98	1.00		
percent chord	Pressure coefficient, cp							
5 15 25 37·5 55 67·5 67·6 71·9 80·1 89·2 93·9	0.080 199 209 266 236 239 216 234 010 .067 .047 .041 .089 .149	0.096191224253253299262274283011096052038104158	0.115 171 196 259 237 325 190 229 380 395 233 .087 .068 .068 .112 .168	0.137 146 185 249 227 333 202 205 408 408 322 071 .022 .019 .107 .160				
(d) Sucti	on stri	p at 86	.6-perc	ent spa	n, c _q =	0.002		
5 15 25 37.5 45 55 62.5 67.5 70.6 71.9 80.1 85.4 89.0 95.9	0.078198208266234300256234181198023044063 .073 .106 .150	0.096195218254285258274246019020053085117164	0.124 167 193 276 257 353 267 276 343 356 194 067 062 .086 .133 .172	0.131 154 106 262 240 355 224 210 382 379 290 151 115 .070 .131 .169	0.063 171 275 340 313 340 405 343 414 515 414 400 324 076 .010			



TABLE II.- MEASURED PRESSURE DISTRIBUTION FOR THE 5/8-SEMISPAN SECTION; δ = 0 - Concluded

(e) Suction strip at 95.7-percent span, $c_q = 0.002$									
Chord-	Mach number								
wise station,	0.90	0•95	0.98	1.00	1.05				
percent chord	Pressure coefficient, cp								
5 15 25 37·5 45 55 62·5 70·6 71·9 80·1 85·4 89·2 93·9	0.077200209259229238219179199 .023011005 .010 .093 .157	0.120 168 205 271 251 349 192 226 341 348 206 059 009 .014 .056 .162	0.158120184248220347350285340349256227073039037157	0.180 093 166 230 207 334 358 430 433 324 316 298 153 072 .081	0.218043104174148277304343414417278310286273251194				



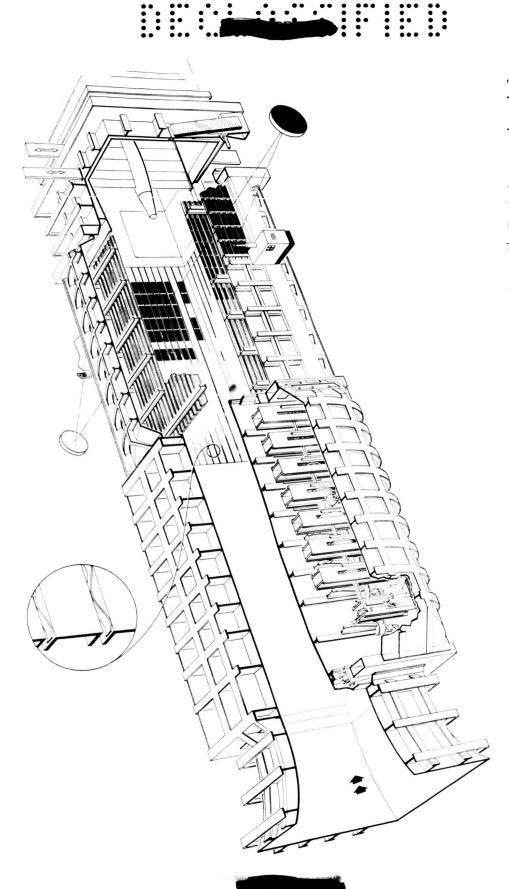
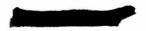


Figure 1.- Sectional sketch of the nozzle and test section of the Ames 1^{4} -foot transonic wind tunnel.



Figure 2.- Rear view of model mounted in test section.



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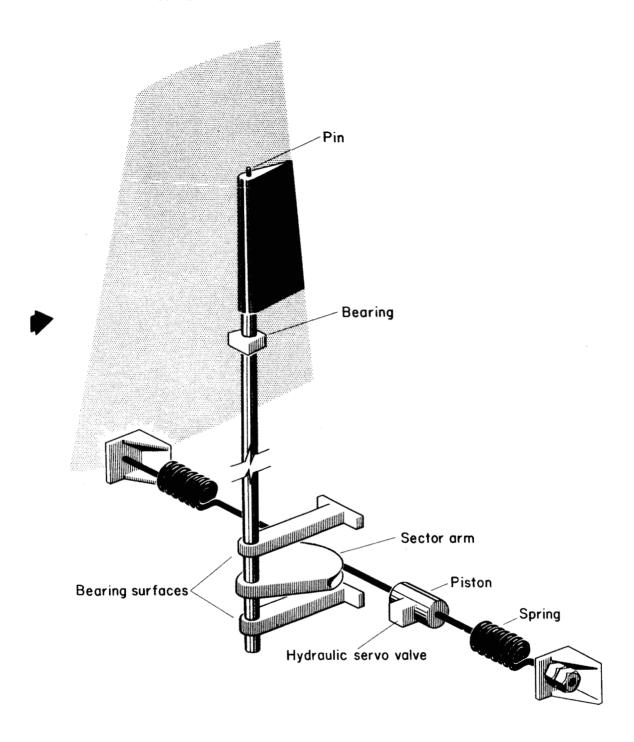


Figure 3.- Schematic drawing of the control-surface drive system.







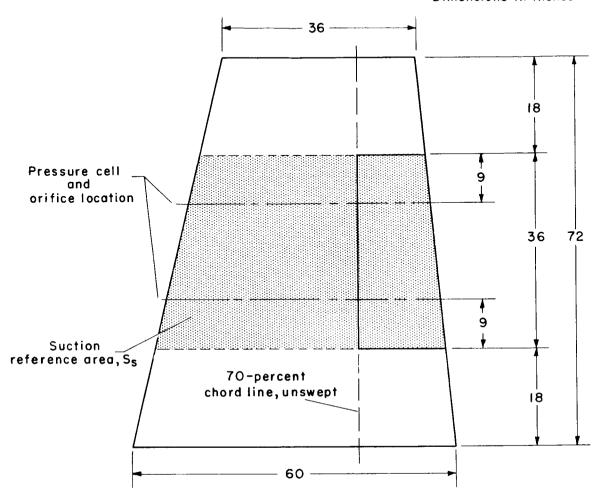
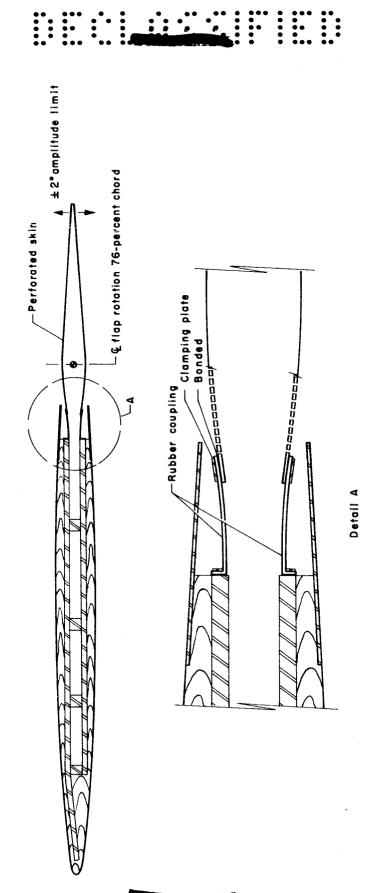


Figure 4.- Dimensional sketch of model plan form.



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Figure 5.- Cross section of model at the control surface.

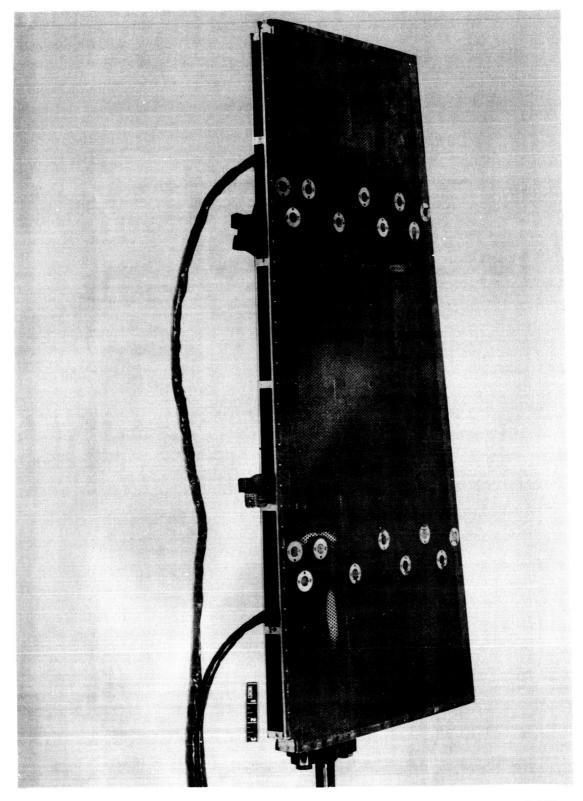
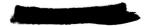
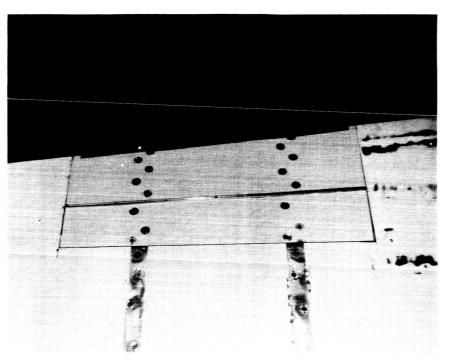


Figure 6.- Control surface.

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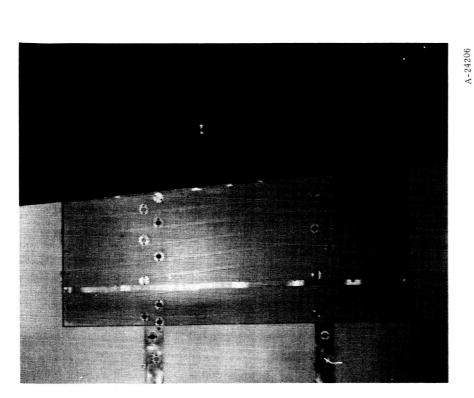






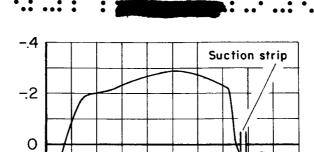
A-24194

(b) Spoiler mounted at 82-percent chord.



(a) Suction strip at 77.3-percent chord.

Figure 7.- Views of suction and spoiler configurations.



(a) Suction strip at 77.3-percent chord station, $c_q = .0019$.

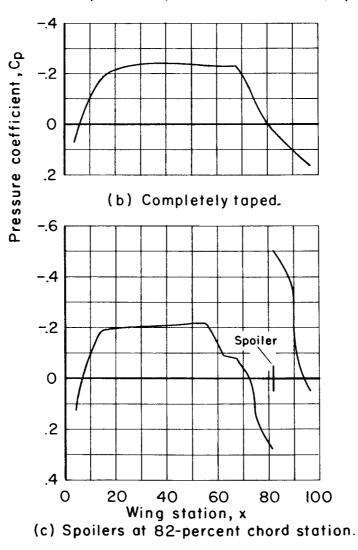
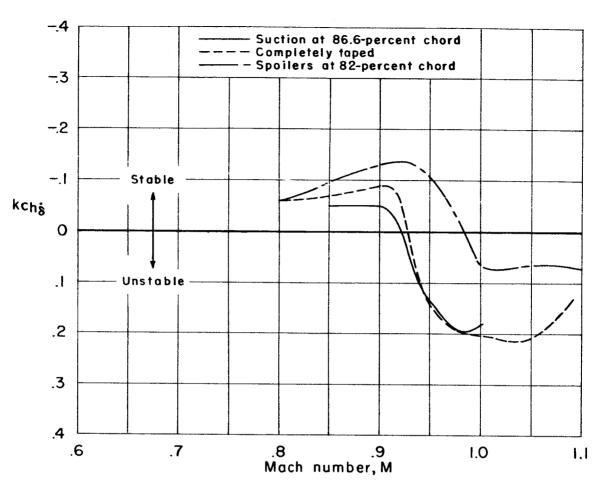


Figure 8.- Wing and control-surface static pressure coefficients, M = 0.90.

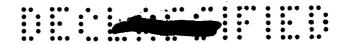


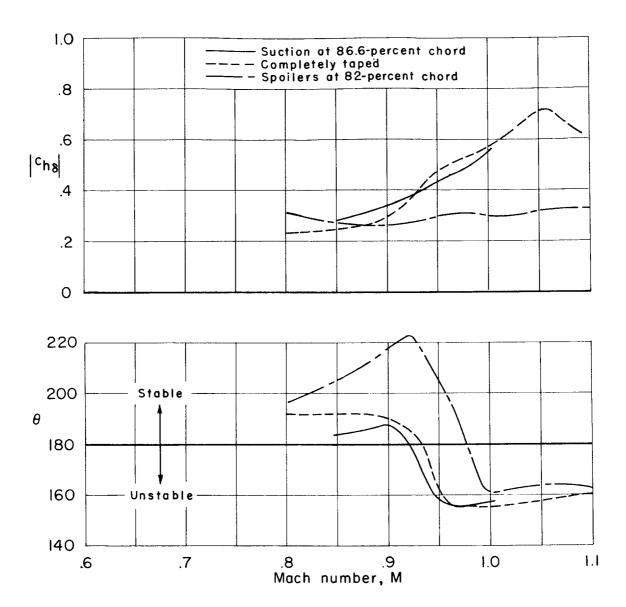




(b) Aerodynamic damping component as a function of Mach number.

Figure 9.- Concluded.





(a) Resultant aerodynamic hinge moment and phase angle as functions of Mach number.

Figure 9.- Results for suction, taped, and spoiler configurations; k = 0.3, $c_{\rm q}$ = 0.0019.